

request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection under the above-mentioned grounds.

In addition to the arguments submitted previously, Applicants present the following clarification of the features of the invention. In contrast to any references or combinations of references identified by the Examiner, only the instant method allows a way to assign security levels to information objects that allows these objects to be categorized. For example, if a user wishes to keep certain portions of his medical history invisible, but make the remaining portions of the medical information visible to a third party, then the user may categorize these objects variously by assigning different security levels to the medical information objects so that certain security levels can be used to decide which portions of his information may be released to a third party. None of the references, either individually or in combination provides this flexibility to the user. Moreover, the granularity at which the user may assign these security levels can be configured to be user-selectable. The entire medical information could be given a particular security level, allowing all of it to be treated as a single information object. On the other hand, only certain parts of the user's medical information—medical information relating to the user's genetics—may be separately classified to be at a particular security level, and information objects at that security level may be transmitted to a requesting party.

Thus, Applicants believe that a feature of the instant disclosure presents a novel and nonobvious method to achieve flexible and user-selectable assignment of security levels to information objects, which is not present in any references cited. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and early allowance of all pending claims.

Conclusion

Applicant has addressed all grounds for objection of the specification and rejection of claims 7-30 included in the Office Action. In view of the

aforementioned arguments, applicant believes that all currently pending claims in the instant are in a condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early notice of allowance are respectfully solicited. Applicants additionally petitioned for a one-month extension of time to respond to this Office Action. A check for \$425.00 for the Extension of Time (\$55.00) and for the RCE (\$370) is enclosed.

Respectfully Submitted,

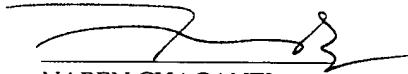

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I certify that this paper (together with any other papers mentioned or referenced herein as being enclosed) is deposited with the United States Postal Service "First Class Mail" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to "Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D. C. 20231."

3-22-02
Date


NAREN CHAGANTI